FROM THE
AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR OF 100 BULLETS

BRIAN AZZARELLO

JOKER

ART BY LEE BERMEJO

DC™

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

DC COMICS

JOKER

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PENCILS and COVERS

INKS 1, 4, 14, 16, 18-23, 48, 49, 66, 73, 115, 117, 119, 120, and 121

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THE **NEWS**, WHEN IT CAME, SPREAD FROM THE BACK ALLEYS TO THE SOCIAL CLUBS...

...THROUGH ROOMS WHERE **EVERYTHING** YOU'D EVER WANT WAS **FOR SALE**...

...TO THE CONFESSIONALS WHERE IT WAS ALL **PAID FOR.**

IT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE -- OR MORE APTLY PUT -- A **DISEASE.**

THE GRIN AND BARE it

SOMEONE'S GOTTA GO GET 'M, MONTY.

THAT'S WHAT HE IS, I GUESS; A DISEASE THAT INFECTED GOTHAM CITY...

...OF WHICH THERE IS NO CURE.

OKAY. WHO?

IF NO ONE ELSE GOT THE STONES...

...I'LL DO IT.

HUH.

BE MY GUEST.

HE WAS A DISEASE THAT SOMEHOW, WITH THE HELP OF GOD OR THE DEVIL-- PICK YOUR POISON-- HAD CONVINCED HIS DOCTORS HE WASN'T DISEASED ANYMORE.

THE NEWS SPREAD. I DON'T KNOW THE PARTICULARS--

--STILL DON'T AS TO WHY, BUT HE WAS...

...THE JOKER WAS BEING RELEASED FROM ARKHAM ASYLUM.

HAVE TO ADMIT, SEEIN' HIM IN PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT THAT INSTINCTUAL "CLENCH"...

YOU KNOW, "DOWN THERE."

BUT THEN, HE SALUTED THE CITY...

WHICH PUT MY MIND -- AMONG OTHER THINGS -- AT EASE.

AH... I'M HERE TO... AH, PICK YOU UP.

AND WHO ARE YOU?

MONTY SENT ME.

MY NAME'S JONNY. JONNY FROST.

JONNY JONNY FROST, LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION...

...DO YOU HAVE A *GUN*?

YES SIR...

YOU NEED IT?

HUH-- *WOW.*

JONNY JONNY, I THINK I *LIKE* YOU.

LET ME HAVE IT.

"SEE THAT CAR, THERE? THE MEN IN THAT CAR HAVE GUNS TOO..."

YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE?

THUGS, CERTAINLY. COPS...

MAYBE.

YOU ARE HERE TO PICK ME UP. WELL...

THEY ARE HERE TO PUT ME DOWN.

OPEN YOUR TRUNK.

THAT SHOVEL YOU HAVE?

HOW'D YOU--

WRAP IT IN THE BLANKET AND HAND IT TO ME.

THANK YOU.

I'LL RIDE SHOTGUN.

THE MEN WITH GUNS FOLLOWED US AT A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE AWAY FROM ARKHAM AND ACROSS THE WAYNE COUNTY BRIDGE.

WHEN WE TURNED WEST, AND THEY KEPT GOING NORTH.

THEY **BLINKED**. HE...

...GIGGLED, OR CLEARED THE PHLEGM OUT OF HIS THROAT, IT WAS HARD TO TELL.

THERE WAS A PLACE HE WANTED TO STOP AT-- PLACE THAT FOR ANYONE WHO WENT THERE, I'D HEARD WAS THE **STOPPING** PLACE.

BY THAT I MEAN, LIKE, THE **END** OF THE ROAD.

KNOCK KNOCK

WHO'S THERE?

JOE.

SSHUUCK

JOE WH--

JONNY JONNY... YOU LOOK NERVOUS.

I DO? I DON'T MEAN TO.

I MEAN... I'M SORRY.

HERE.

LITTLE LESS NERVOUS?

A BIT OF ADVICE...

DON'T *EVER* APOLOGIZE TO NO ONE FOR THE WAY YOU *LOOK*.

KLIC

JOKER...

I HEARD YOU WAS GETTIN' OUT...

TELL ME... HOW'D YOU MANAGE *THAT?*

AH...

NO.

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU 'ROUND HERE?

CROC, C'MON... I ALWAYS LIKE TO SEE YOU.

WHY'S THAT?

YOU MAKE ME FEEL *HANDSOME.*

HEH.

YOU WANT INTA THE *GAME?*

I DO, I DO, BUT...

HEH. HEARD *THAT*, TOO. *NO RESPECT* SHOWN, WHILE YOU WAS AWAY.

YOU BROKE?

NOTHING *WE* CAN'T *FIX.*

HEH.

SO WHAT NEEDS *FIXIN'?*

FIXIN'S... THOSE ARE SIDE DISHES...

YOU HUNGRY?

ALWAYS.

HOW 'BOUT SOME RABBIT?

NNNRRRR....

...HEH.

HEHEHEHEH

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

"NO RESPECT SHOWN WHILE YOU WAS AWAY..."

AMEN, BROTHER.

MY NAME, IS JONNY FROST. YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT ALL MY LIFE, I KNEW YOU **WOULD**.

CENTER

THAT I'D DO **SOMETHIN'**-- BE **SOMEBODY**-- THAT YOU'D KNOW, AND TAKE NOTICE.

A **BIG MAN**. FRONT ROW SEATS, NICE SUITS, MY OWN BOOTH AT THE TONIEST RESTAURANT IN TOWN.

SOMEBODY.

NOT SOME TWO-BIT HOOD, HUSTLIN' SMALL POTATOES WOULDN'T SATISFY A STARVIN' IRISHMAN.

WELL **LOOK** WHO IT IS...

WELCOME HOME, *BOSS.*

MONTY.

IT'S BEEN WHAT? AT LEAST--

--TOO LONG! AND NO TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT-- WE GOTTA *CELEBRATE!*

WE DO? WHAT'S THE OCCASION?

YER *OUT*-- HUH?

I AM. HA.

DRINK?

YEAH.

'NOTHER.

I BEEN TO SOME PARTIES IN MY DAY...

BUT THIS...

WAS ONE HELL OF A PARTY.

IT WASN'T JUST OFF THE HOOK...

IT TORE THE HOOK OFF THE WALL...

...AND THE WALL OFF THE HOUSE.

IT WAS ALL ABOUT RESPECT.

THE KIND I WANTED.

YOU FEELIN' GOOD?

I'M FEELIN'.

GOOD.

SO WHY'D YOU BRING THEM *ANIMALS* WITH YA?

"I'LL ADMIT THAT CROC HAS A CERTAIN...

"ECCENTRIC WAY WITH EVIDENCE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE *HIM* A... OOH..."

YOU SAID *ANIMALS*.

MONTY, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT WHAT'S *HAPPENED* WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY.

I KNOW YOU'D RATHER WAIT FOR TOMORROW, BUT I'M *ANTSY*.

I DON' WAN' YOU *THAT* WAY, BOSS.

SMACK

I KNOW.

JONNY?

YEAH?

IN YOUR POCKET...

YOU HAVE A DOLLAR.

*OFF THE DAMN SIDE OF THE CITY, MAN. JOKER, FREE. AND ME... JONNY FROST-- A NAME YOU KNOW **NOW**.*

I'M NOT WHAT I WAS-- I'D SIGNED THAT AWAY ON A DOTTED LINE...

A SALUTE TO MY PAST.

FORGET THAT, I WAS PART OF ONE HELL OF A PARTY, I WAS--

JESUS H--

SLAGK

SHLUMP

HEH.

FRIENDS...

I'M VERY, *VERY* DISTRESSED.

YOU CAN SEE IT IN MY FACE, I'M SURE.

WHEN I WENT AWAY, I THOUGHT I WAS LEAVING MY CITY IN CAPABLE HANDS, BUT IT SEEMS *OTHER* HANDS HAVE TAKEN IT FROM ME.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THESE OTHER HANDS DID? THEY LOOSENED THE BELT AROUND THEIR FAT WAISTS, AND TOOK A *DUMP*.

IN MY CITY... MY SANDBOX... MINE... GOTHAM BELONGS TO *ME*.

SO WHO HERE...

...WANTS TO HELP ME TAKE IT *BACK?*

I DO.

JONNY DOES.

Ring
o
Ring

GODS LAW MANS LAW
Ring
o
Ring
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
1915

YES?

...NO.

GOD, NO.

"YOU'RE SWEATING, JONNY..."

HUH? I AM?

...I'M A LITTLE HUNG OVER.

WE DID HANG THE CATS OUT TO DRY LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T WE?

I WOKE UP WITH THAT NOT-SO-FRESH FEELING MYSELF. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE IN THE SAME STRAITS...

THE END IS NIGH!

HERE, STICK *THESE* IN YOUR HOLE.

JOKER, I CAN'T TAKE PILLS--

--*WHY?* THEY FIX THINGS. I'VE LIVED ON THEM FOR YEARS. *YEARS*.

YEARS. PILLS PILLS PILLS. THEY PRY OPEN YOUR MIND WITH FINGERS, AND...

...ARE YOU SAYING YER *BETTER* THAN ME?!

NO!-- I CAN'T SWALLOW *'EM DRY*.

OH.

HERE. HAIR OF THE DOG.

HARLEY...

SWEET.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

SWEATING...? YEAH, I WAS SWEATING LIKE A NUN IN A SAUNA, AND BOOZE HAD **NOTHING** TO DO WITH IT.

JOKER WAS **BROKE**. ALL THE CASH, ALL HIS HOLDINGS, HIS TERRITORY... **EVERYTHING** HE HAD-- WAS **GONE**.

DIVVIED UP, BY MEN WHO THOUGHT THEY'D SEEN HIM FOR THE **LAST** TIME.

BUT RATHER THAN GO AFTER **THEM**, HE DECIDED TO ROB A BANK.

SO YEAH, I WAS SWEATING.

JONNY FROST?

SIX MONTHS AGO, I GOT OUT OF THE JOINT FOR THE FIFTH TIME.

IT IS, LIKE THEY SAY; THE FIRST BID IS THE WORST. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE...

IT'S JUST THE FIRST.

SO I MADE A PROMISE INSTEAD, THE FIFTH WAS MY LAST.

TOO MUCH OF MY LIFE WAS SPENT BEHIND BARS.

...TOO MUCH.

SHELLY...

CHANGE YER MIND ABOUT ME, BABY?

BACK OFF, JONNY.

C'MON, SHEL...

FER OL' TIMES' SAKE.

...

FOR OLD TIMES.

THE *DIVORCE* PAPERS.

HUH. SHOUDA SENT YER LAWYER.

SLAP!

I CAN'T AFFORD A LAWYER YOU *SONOFABITCH!*

LOOK, JONNY... IT'S BEST FOR THE BOTH OF US.

I SIGN AND THERE *AIN'T NO* US.

WHAT ABOUT THE *KIDS?*

PLEASE... JUST SIGN THE PAPERS SO I CAN GET OUT OF HERE.

JESUS... *NOW* YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT 'EM...

IF I DO...

"WILL YOU GIVE ME A RIDE BACK INTO THE CITY?"

HERE HE COMES...

KA-CHIC

...ALONE.

DRIVE, JONNY.

HOW'D IT GO?

GOOD-- NOT GREAT.

BUT GOOD. BORING.

THE ALARM WASN'T TRIPPED, AND NOBODY DIED.

MAYBE NEXT TIME.

GET RID OF THIS.

WHAT THE HELL..?

IT'S A PICTURE OF THE BANK PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER.

AH...

...BIRDS AND BEES, HONEY?

YOU ARE KIDDIN' ME...

HA HA HEHEHE HEHAHA

HEH HEH. OF COURSE I AM.

I DIG DRIVING PEOPLE, JONNY...

DRIVE ME.

AND DRIVE I DID. 'CAUSE ONE THING I GOT-- IS **DRIVE**. FIRST TO A SPORTING GOODS STORE, OF ALL PLACES.

DIDN'T TAKE JOKER FOR MUCH OF A SPORTSMAN, BUT HELL...

...EVERY MAN NEEDS A HOBBY.

YOU AIN'T GONNA CATCH MUCH WITH *THAT*...

REALLY? THINK I SHOULD USE *SUGAR* INSTEAD?

SOMEONE'S COMING...

YES... I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT...

WHUMP

CROC...

CAN YOU BE *NICE?*

NO...

NO JOKER, I CAN'T.

THAT BASTARD IS A MONSTER.

CAN'T YOU BE THE *BIGGER* MAN, ABNER?

SIT.

...

GOOD TO *SEE* YOU.

CAN'T STANDS ME A *LIAR*, ABNER.

WE HEARD YOU WERE RELEASED. NO ONE CAN FIGURE *HOW*...

WELL... I'M NOT *CRAZY* ANYMORE...

...JUST MAD.

I'VE LOST CONTROL OF GOTHAM, ABNER...

CAN'T STANDS THAT EITHER.

CONTROL? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU EVER HAD *THAT?*

FEEL MY MUSCLE...

NOT *THIS* ONE...

THAT ONE.

RHAUK

SHOW HIM WHAT'S IN THE BAG, JONNY.

YOU KNOW WHAT *THAT* IS, ABNER?

GRRK GRRK

EXACTLY-- NOT *ENOUGH.*

BUT IT'S *ALL* I HAVE.

I'D LIKE YOU TO INVEST IT FOR ME.

LOOKING FOR A HIGH YIELD, SAY, *TEN TIMES* AS MUCH. QUICK TURN-AROUND, TOO. YOU CAN *DO?*

GHHHH

ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU TRY. BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU-- AS BUSINESSMAN, A FACILITATOR...

THERE'S NOT A NICKEL CHANGES HANDS IN GOTHAM DON'T HAVE A GREASY PRINT FROM YOUR FAT SAUSAGES ON IT.

YUM YUM, HUH CROC?

WE HAVE A *DEAL,* ABNER?

THANK YOU.

BAAA

BAAA

ABNER...

BLARGHH

YOU'RE SCARING THE FISH...

NOW THAT-- ABSO-POSI-LUTELY-- WAS HOW I WANTED TO ROLL. JONNY FROST-- MAKIN' HIS ENEMIES DO WHAT HE WANTED 'EM TO, TA HELL WITH WHAT THEY WANTED.

JOKER HAD ME TAKE HIM AN' HIS LADY BACK TO THEIR CRIB. AS THEY WERE GETTING OUT OF MY RIDE, HE ASKED ME IF THERE WAS ANYTHING AT MY OWN I **HAD** TO HAVE.

I HESITATED TO ANSWER--

MY MISTAKE WAS **HESITATIN'**.

THEN HE GAVE ME A SQUEEZE, AND STRESSED THAT-- ONLY WHAT YOU **HAVE** T'HAVE-- THEN' WALK AWAY.

I SAID SURE. I UNDERSTOOD I WOULD BE STAYIN' WITH **HIM** NOW.

YOU PULL THAT...

I'LL **DROP YOU** WHERE YOU STAND, **SCUMBAG**.

YOU MUST BE A COP.

WHY MUST I BE?

'CAUSE ONLY COPS CALL PEOPLE SCUMBAGS. ***PEOPLE*** REFER TO PEOPLE BY OTHER WORDS.

Divorce Document

This is a divorce document that states that Jonny is being divorced by his wife and that he will not be able to visit his kids.
Wife signature here:_____
Lawyer signature: waved

I hearby agree to the terms of this Divorce and will abide by them according to Gotham City and U.S. Government Law.
Jonny signature here:_____

Official Gotham City document.

EX-WIVES DON'T.

YOU CAN TELL SHELLY--

RELAX, JONNY. I'M NOT HERE ON THAT *SCAG'S* BEHALF. WE BOTH KNOW CHILD SUPPORT ONLY COMES WHEN ONE'S SUPPORTIN' ONE'S SELF. RIGHT?

RIGHT.

YER RUNNIN' WITH THE WRONG CROWD, KID.

AM I?

I JUST *SAID* YOU WERE.

WHAT?-- THAT'S IT?

14

NO-- YOU GOT A REGISTRATION FOR THAT PIECE YER CARRYIN'?

I...

JUST PLAYIN'.

SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

I TOOK NOTHING.

I WALKED AWAY, LIGHT AS A FEATHER...

...ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

IT'S ALL SET UP, JOKER. TOMMY BANG BANG WILL MEET WITH US. THOUGH--IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING--LETTING HIM KNOW WE'RE COMING COULD MEAN WE'RE WALKING INTO A SETUP.

I DON'T MIND YOU SAYING THAT, JONNY. SOMETIMES, I NEED TO HEAR THE *OBVIOUS*...

NOW IS *NOT* ONE OF THOSE TIMES, THOUGH...

LOOK OUT THE WINDOW, JONNY JONNY...

...TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE...

I SEE LIGHTS.

LIGHTS? HEHEH

HAHAHAHA

THOSE LIGHTS? THEY'RE JUST *PIN PRICKS*...

"IN THE DARK."

HE'S OUT THERE.

SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT

YOU KNOW THAT, JONNY?

RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WINDOW...

...WATCHING ME.

LET'S GO TO WORK.

WORK. I GOT INTO THIS BUSINESS TO AVOID IT.

THERE'S THE RUB--IT IS A ***BUSINESS***. YOU NEVER KNOW IT, AT FIRST--GETTIN' THAT FREE TASTE IN THE ALLEY CHOKING WHORES FOR MILK MONEY.

TOMMY...

BANG BANG!

C'MON IN, JOKER... HAVE A SEAT.

YOU HUNGRY? THE SCAMPI IS--

...

WINE?

WAAA... I WANT WHAT'S MINE *BACK*...

HEHEH.

THAT'S GOOD--YER A FUNNY GUY--

I *DON'T CARE* WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAYS.

YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT WHAT I SAY, BANG BANG.

I DO...

I DO. LOOK-- JOKER...

WHEN YOU WENT DOWN, THINGS... IT WASN'T MY CALL, BUT I TOOK A PIECE.

ABEL

YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN A FOOL *NOT* TO.

YEAH... YEAH!

I GOT THE GARBAGE ON THE EASTSIDE, AN' SHAKE DOWNS TOO.

THAT'S *ALL*. IT'S YERS AGAIN. I WAS JUST KEEPIN' IT WARM.

CLICK

HERE'S YOUR CUT.

I'D LIKE YOUR CREW TO RUN IT FOR ME STILL. THEY CAN BE TRUSTED, RIGHT? 'CUZ I GET A WHIFF OF SKIMMIN', IT'S LIKE MY BOOGERS ARE TURNED INTO SH--

--YOU AIN'T GONNA SMELL **BOO** FROM US.

TEN FOR YOU, FIVE FOR YER GUYS.

THAT'S *VERY* GENEROUS.

A GOOD JOB DESERVES A LIVABLE WAGE, NO?

MAN... I LOVE SHRIMPS.

THAT WENT PRETTY GOOD, HUH, BOSS?

DID IT?

START THE CAR, JONNY... I GOTTA GO BACK IN...

I FORGOT TO DO SOMETHING...

TOMMY?

BANG BANG

TEN PERCENT IS NOW *OFF* THE TABLE.

FIVE--FOR THE TIME BEING-- STILL STANDS, GENTLEMEN...

HMM...

CLINK

CLINK

NOT *ENOUGH* FOR YOU, HUH?

NEED ME FOR *MORE* OF YOUR DIRTY WORK?

I ADMIT, I AIMED *LOW*.

KA-CH

CLICK

HEE HEE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS THINKING...

OR IF HE EVEN WAS.

JOKER, I WAS LEARNIN'... WASN'T ABOUT THINKIN'...

...BUT ALL ABOUT DOIN'.

AND ALWAYS HIMSELF. I SUPPOSE ONE COULD SAY THAT THING ABOUT "IF YOU WANT A JOB DONE RIGHT"...

OR MAYBE IT WAS HE ENJOYED THE...

...WORK? EVEN TOOK **PRIDE** IN IT, LIKE AN ARTIST. NOT THAT I KNOW FROM ART, BUT AS ANOTHER SAYING GOES...

"I KNOW WHAT I LIKE."

AND I WAS LIKIN' THIS. WELL, NOT SO MUCH THE "THIS," BUT DEFINITELY BEING ON THE SIDE THAT WAS DOIN' IT.

TOMMY WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS A NUMBER OF GOTHAM'S MID-LEVEL BOSSES TURNED UP FACE DOWN...

OTHERS NEVER TURNED UP AGAIN.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, JONNY FROST KNEW WHERE **ALL** THE BODIES WERE BURIED.

THAT KINDA **POWER**, BY THE SHORT HAIRS.

DRUGS

"CROC -- "

LET'S GO.

EH?

I'M NOT DONE EATIN'.

YES-- BROTHER-- YOU *ARE*...

NO, BITCH, I AIN'T.

CROC...DON' DO THIS--YOU KNOW WHO I WORK FOR...

YOU SERIOUS? YOU THINK YOU A WORKER?

DAMN... YOU GOT NO IDEA, DO YA?

I'M WORKIN'. YOU?...

HANG TIGHT.

WE LEAVE WHEN I SAY I'M DONE.

THAT BE COO' WIT' THE MAN?

YOU'RE LATE.

THAT A PROBLEM?

NO, NOT AT ALL. I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF...

THOUGHT I KEPT *YOU* WAITING.

HEHEHEHEH. MAN.

JONNY JONNY FROST...YOU LOOK BOTHERED...

SOMETHING EATING YOU?

NOTHING, BOSS.

NOTHING IS EATING ME.

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT JOKER...IT WAS LIKE HE COULD SEE EVERYTHING YOU WERE THINKIN' WRITTEN ACROSS YER MUG AS PLAIN AS DAY...

OR MAYBE IT WAS MORE LIKE HE MADE YOU **THINK** THE WAY HE WANTED YOU TO.

HE WANTED ME TO TELL HIM ABOUT CROC'S LACK OF RESPECT, I WAS SURE OF IT...

THAT, OR HE WANTED TO SEE WHAT TYPE OF GUY I WAS.

I'M **NOT** THAT TYPE OF GUY.

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I HAD **MY** PLACE, AND CROC HAD **HIS**...

HE JUST HAD TO LEARN WHERE THAT WAS.

THE GUY WAS ALL MUSCLE, NO FINESSE. NOW, SURE, MUSCLE MEANS SOMETHING, AND IT CAN TAKE A BODY FAR...

...BUT NEVER INTO THE BACK ROOM.

THAT WAS FOR FINESSE PLAYERS ONLY.

HELLO THERE, ABNER.

JOKER.

TAKE A SEAT.

OKAY... HMMM...

YOURS LOOKS NICE.

GET UP.

...

I'M KIDDING...

...WHY IS EVERYBODY SO ON *EDGE* TONIGHT?

THAT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR ACTIONS OF LATE.

SOMEONE IS VERY SORE AT YOU.

REALLY? THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS. I JUST LIVE TO MAKE *HIM* SORE. IT'S WHAT DRAGS ME OUT OF BED.

NO, NOT *HIM*. THOUGH I'M CERTAIN HE'S NOT VERY HAPPY ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO EITHER.

I'M SPEAKING OF *DENT*.

HARVEY'S MAD?

WHICH ONE?

HA!

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY, ABNER?

I THINK IT'S A FAIR QUESTION.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER IT...

WELL LET ME TELL YOU ***HOW***, BECAUSE ***I*** KNOW PSYCHOSIS LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND...

HARVEY'S HEAD... IT'S A BRAND NEW SPORTS CAR-- OR A BEATER, DEPENDING HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.

AND THIS CAR, IT HAS ***TWO*** OWNERS-- NOT VERY CREATIVE OWNERS EITHER--

--SINCE THEY COULDN'T COME UP WITH ***SEPARATE GODDAMN NAMES*** WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF.

SO WHICH *ONE* IS PISSED OFF AT ME?

...

I DON'T KNOW.

NO?

OKAY.

I'LL CALL HIM, FIND OUT.

HE *WON'T* TAKE YOUR CALL.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I MEAN I DON'T *THINK* HE WILL.

WELL... *ONE* HARVEY PROBABLY WON'T.

"...I MIGHT GET LUCKY AND GET THE *OTHER* ONE."

Ring
Ring

Ring
Ring

Ring
Ring

Ring

HMM

HMM HMM HMM

WELL...

THAT'S... NOT *NORMAL*. I HOPE HARVEY'S ALL RIGHT.

HEH.

NO, HEH, JONNY JONNY-- HARVEY-- HE'S A GUY, NORMALLY TAKES A CALL...

'CAUSE HE'S GOT A THING ABOUT BEING *CALLED* ON...

HIS FACE... COMPLEXION... CONFIDENCE ISSUES. I FEEL *BAD* FOR HIM...

HALF THE TIME...

ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT, *HARVEYS...*

YOU WANT TO BE TOUGH GUYS ABOUT THIS?

FINE. FINE. LONG AS I KNOW WHAT THE RULES ARE, I CAN *MAKE 'EM UP* AS I GO ALONG!

RUMCH

SMASH

WHAT THE HELL YOU DOIN', JOKER?

ISN'T ANYONE *LISTENING* TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

WE SHOULD GO... IS A EPISODE.

NONONO-- DON'T GO!--

HAVE A DRINK.

C'MON, HUH?

HUH?

SMASH

TWO AGAINST ONE, EH, HARVEYS? THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT TO PLAY GOTHAM?

KRICK CHERK SPURT.

OKAY. OKAY THEN.

BOYS--

"WE SHOULD GO."

KA-BO

WHY HE DID THEN. WHAT HE DID, MADE SENSE TO NOBODY THERE.

NOBODY BUT ME.

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY SCUMBAG STEPFATHER, ONCE--

ONLY ONCE-- TOOK US CAMPING.

I'D NEVER BEEN OUT IN THE WOODS BEFORE, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE SINCE, REALLY.

BUT THE TIME WITH MY STEPFATHER, I CAUGHT A TOAD, AND I TOOK HIM HOME IN A BOX.

I FED HIM BUGS THAT I'D CATCH... ROACHES MOSTLY, SINCE THAT'S WHAT WE HAD, MOSTLY.

AFTER IT RAINED, I'D TAKE HIM UP ON THE ROOF OF OUR BUILDING TOO. SEEIN' IT WAS OUTSIDE, I FIGURED HE'D LIKE TO HOP AROUND UP THERE, AND I **THINK** HE REALLY DID. I **LIKE** TO THINK THAT.

BUT THIS ONE TIME...

THERE WERE OLDER KIDS UP THERE, AND THEY SAW WHAT I HAD...

AND THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO THROW MY TOAD OFF THE ROOF. AND THEY WERE, I **KNEW** IT, AND I ALSO KNEW I COULDN'T **LET** THEM DO THAT.

TO ME.

SO I DID IT MYSELF.

AFTER, I WENT DOWN TO THE STREET, TO FIND IT. I LOOKED EVERYWHERE...

BUT I NEVER DID.

HOW'S THE FOOD HERE, FROST?

THE BROKEN EGG

GOTHAM GLOBE

NIGHTCLUB BURNS

WAYNE CO SIGNS DEAL WITH NECK"

ARSON SUSPECTED

EX-COP ON TRIAL FOR MAN-SLAUGHTER

BATMAN STOPS UNDERGROUND ILLEGAL FIGHTING CIRCUIT!

S'GOOD...

I DIDN'T ORDER A SIDE OF BACON, THOUGH.

HA. THAT'S A GOOD ONE.

GUESS THE *CLOWNY* IS RUBBIN' OFF ON YOU.

I DON' KNOW WHAT YER TALKIN' ABOUT.

FRANKLY, I DON' GIVE A *RAT'S ASS* WHAT YOU KNOW...

I KNOW A MAN THOUGH, THAT *DOES*.

JONNY'S *FINISHED*, MISSY--

AND LATE FOR A MEETING.

I WENT WITH THE COP. IT'S BEST, I'VE FOUND, TO DO WHAT THEY SAY WHEN THEY'RE AROUND. I HAD NO IDEA THOUGH...

...I WAS THROWING MYSELF OFF THE EDGE.

MISTER FROST...

I CAN'T TELL YOU IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

...CIRCUMSTANCES WON'T ALLOW THAT.

I'M, AH,... SORRY THEY AIN'T DIFFERENT, MR. DENT.

...

WHAT IF THEY WERE...

COULD THEY BE?..

MAYBE.

YOU *KNOW* YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH A *SICK MAN* WHO WILL SEE YOU *DIE?*

HE WILL STAND OVER *YOUR BODY*, WITH *YOUR BLOOD* ON HIS HANDS AND I PROMISE YOU HE *WILL* LAUGH...

NOT BECAUSE YOUR LIFE MEANS *NOTHING* TO HIM--

BUT BECAUSE *DEATH*, FOR HIM--

IS THE *PUNCH LINE.*

A *VERY* SICK MAN. A *DISEASE*, THAT THIS CITY CAN'T AFFORD TO CATCH AGAIN.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TELLING YOU?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND *WHY* YOU ARE...

I'M HOPING, MISTER FROST, THAT YOU *WILL*.

WHEN THE TIME COMES.

"FOR SOME REASON, THE SICK MAN *TRUSTS* YOU.

"WE'D LIKE TO AS WELL..."

I DON'T REMEMBER LEAVING HARVEY DENT'S OFFICE.

I MUST'VE WALKED. MY LEGS ACHED FROM WALKING. WALKED, AND KEPT WALKING...

ALL THE WAY UP TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD.

I STAYED THERE ALL DAY. JUST... STAYED.

TOO LONG. I DON'T KNOW WHY, MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE...

IT WAS THE LAST PLACE I WANTED TO BE.

YOU'RE LATE.

THAT A PROBLEM?

JONNY JONNY...

WHAM!

I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.

NONE AT ALL, ZIP, ZILCH, NADA, UNLESS...

WAIT-- ARE YOU SAYIN'...

THAT *YER* MY PROBLEM?

NO... COUGH... NO, JOKER.

I WAS JUST KIDDING.

OH.

WELL, SO WAS I THEN.

JOKER--

YER *APPOINTMENT.* HE'S HERE.

RIGHT ON TIME, TOO.

SHOW THE *PROBLEM CHILD* IN, CROC.

"JOKER, YOU... YOU EXPECT SOME TROUBLE OUT OF THIS GUY?"

"NO. BUT I DO EXPECT *YOU* TO, JONNY."

THAT'S WHY I KEEP YOU AROUND.

HOLA, EDWARD.

JOKER.

clic

click

click

click

click

click

MMM...

WHEN THE WORLD IS AGAINST YOU, WHERE'S THE SAFEST PLACE TO HIDE?

HMM. I'M...

STUMPED.

HEHEHE HEHHEH.

I DON'T *GET* YOU, EDWARD. YER MOTIVATIONS-- YOU'RE *WISE*, BUT YOUR *WHY'S* ARE COMPLETELY LOST ON ME.

STRANGE, HOW THAT SOUNDS, ISN'T IT?

YOU MIGHT CALL IT *PUZZLING*.

SHALL WE GET DOWN TO *BUSINESS*?

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH *THAT?*

MY BUSINESS.

I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT ANYONE ELSE'S.

HOW DID YOU ACQUIRE--

AH. GETTING EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STEAL...

SO I STOLE IT.

LET'S DO THIS AGAIN.

EDWARD-- IF I WERE YOU-- I'D GET OUT OF TOWN.

JOKER, IF I WERE YOU--

--YOU'D KNOW THAT THE SAFEST PLACE TO HIDE...

IS IN SANITY.

THE DEAL WITH THE RIDDLER WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH...

THAT IS, IF YOU DIDN'T COUNT THE ONE IN HIS HIP.

DRUGS

THAT HAD PUT JOKER IN A GOOD MOOD, WHICH WAS GOOD FOR **EVERYONE**.

I'D REALIZED, HIS MOOD WAS LIKE THE WEATHER...

IT HAD THAT TYPE OF PERSUASIVE EFFECT ON EVERYONE IT TOUCHED. SUNNY DAYS AHEAD, RIGHT?

TURNED OUT TO BE JUST THE **CALM** BEFORE THE **STORM**.

RATRATATATATATATA
-ATAT

WHEN IT **HIT**-- AND **GODDAMN** DID IT HIT-- I THOUGHT I WAS **DEAD**. IF NOT FER THE NOISE-- SHATTERING AND RINGING IN MY EARS, I WOULD HAVE BET I WAS.

SKREEACH

I WOULD HAVE LOST THAT BET. BUT IT WAS A BIGGER ONE THAT I WAS ON THE WRONG END OF.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IN THAT TYPE OF SITUATION, I'D **GIVE** AS GOOD AS I'D **GET**.

PUNCH

THAT I WAS THE KIND A' GUY WHO WENT DOWN SWINGING.

AND IT'S TOUGH WHEN YOU LEARN FROM YOURSELF THAT YER **NOT**.

IT MAKES YOU WONDER ABOUT OTHER THINGS YOU BELIEVE TO BE TRUE ABOUT YOU.

ONE LOOK AT THE STORM MADE ME REALIZE I WAS IN WAY OVER MY HEAD.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

RATATATATATATATA

SKREEEEEE

DANK DANK

PAK

THEY WERE COPS. OFF-DUTY, BUT ON A PAYROLL.

THE ONE I WAS... COULD BE...

PAK

PAK

BLAM BLAM

... ON MYSELF.

THE TIME DENT MENTIONED HAD COME.

BLAM

BLAM

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

THEY SAY THERE'S NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES.

BLAM

CLICK CLICK CLICK

CLICK CLICK CLICK

BUT IS THAT EXCLUSIVE TO THIEVES?

MAYBE THERE'S JUST NO HONOR, PERIOD.

I'D SAY YER UNDER ARREST...

...IF YOU *WERE.*

HEH.

BLAM

DENT WOULDN'T BE HAPPY. I KNEW THAT. AND I CARED ABOUT IT. HIS TIME CAME...

FOR ME...

...AND IT PASSED.

I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP THAT NIGHT. AFTER I SAVED HIS LIFE, JOKER COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING.

...COUGHIN'.

JUST A COUGH. MAYBE THAT'S ALL HE WAS DOIN'...

I SWEAR IT WAS COMING UP STRAIGHT FROM HIS LUNGS, REAL DRY, NO SPIT AT ALL.

SO HARD HIS FACE WENT RED, AND HIS EYES GOT WET.

REALLY COULDN'T STOP. LAUGHING SO HARD HE WAS CHOKING, LIKE HE WAS GONNA...

HARVEY DENT WAS THE RACKETS IN GOTHAM.

FROM FRUIT STANDS TO OYSTER BARS, HE GOT A TASTE. THE PRICE OF DOING BUSINESS WAS DOING IT WITH **HIM**.

WE-- I MEAN JOKER-- DECIDED TO **RAISE** THAT PRICE. I WOULDA SAID DENT IS DEAD. END OF STORY.

JOKER, THOUGH, WASN'T LOOKING FOR AN **ENDING**. I DIDN'T **GET** THAT.

HE SAT IN A CHAIR FOR **DAYS** AND DIDN'T GET UP.

WE DID WHAT WE DID, BUT HE DIDN' MOVE...

FOR DAYS.

WE MADE GOTHAM A TOILET...

...AN' JOKER SAT IN IT.

RING RING

HELLO?

WHY, HARVEY...

SUCKS TO BE YOU, DOESN'T IT?

OR DOES IT?

I NEVER KNOW WHO IT IS I'M TALKING TO.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. WE DO NEED TO TALK...

FACE TO FACE...

"...TO FACE."

WE BOTH AGREE, THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND...

...IT IS THE WAY IT IS. THERE'S NO USE PLACING ANY *BLAME* EITHER.

THE GOTHAM ZOO

IT'S ALL ABOUT EGOS WITH MEN IN OUR POSITION.

SLIGHTS ARE *TAKEN* WHERE NONE WERE *MEANT*, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

YOU GOING TO ANSWER ME?

WHA?

OH, MY MISTAKE... I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING TO *YOURSELVES*, HARVEY.

YOU'RE *NOT* FUNNY, JOKER.

REALLY? AND HERE I THOUGHT THE POINT OF THIS LITTLE TÊTE- À-TÊTE- À-TÊTE. WAS BECAUSE I'M A REGULAR *RIOT*.

THE POINT IS TO REACH AN *UNDERSTANDING*.

TWO MAKE A DEAL, HARVEY?

EXACTLY.

HMM. THERE'S A PROBLEM...

WE SHOULD BE *WILLING* TO WORK THAT OUT.

WILLING AIN'T GONNA CUT IT...

TRY *BEGGING*.

THAT WASN'T MEANT TO BE *FUNNY*...

I MEAN TO HAVE WHAT'S *MINE*, HARVEY.

AND WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT?*

I'M ASKING FOR IT.

GODDAMN RIGHT YOU ARE!

ISN'T HE...

...MR. FROST?

YOU KNOW THE *HARVEYS*, JONNY JONNY?

WE'VE MET. HE DIDN'T *TELL* YOU?

WHAT A *SURPRISE*.

SHELLY?

?

MY WIFE.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE MARRIED...

BUT THEN, NEITHER DID *YOU*, HARVEY.

HA HA. I'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR YEARS--

I WASN'T TALKING TO *YOU*...

I WAS TALKING TO *YOU*. THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS PEOPLE IN OUR POSITION CAN GET AWAY WITH... *MURDER* BEING ONE...

WIVES AIN'T TWO OF THEM.

BIGAMY IS LIKE TAX EVASION. ONCE A PROSECUTOR HAS A CRIME HE CAN TRY IN THE PUBLIC EYE...

...I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF FURTHER TO YOU TWO, DO I?

NO, JOKER, 'COURSE YOU DON'T. I'LL ADMIT, IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR ME...

...BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? ***LOVE'S*** A FUNNY THING.

FUNNIER THAN ***YOU'LL*** EVER BE. I KNEW THERE WAS ALWAYS A CHANCE THIS COULD HAPPEN...

THAT HIS HAPPINESS COMPROMISED OUR BEST INTERESTS.

SO I MADE CERTAIN IT ***COULDN'T***. I HAVE A MAN ON SPEED DIAL WILL MAKE ***EVERYTHING*** IN THAT CASE THERE DISAPPEAR.

AH, AH, AH-- NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY.

NAUGHTY?...

...LIKE ***YOU*** GOT ROOM TO TALK.

WHAT THE---

WHAT THE *HELL* DID YOU DO TO ME!?

NOT MUCH...

YET.

TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK TOK

THE GLOVES ARE OFF, HARVEYS...

I'M THROUGH *MONKEYING* AROUND.

YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT WHAT'S *FUNNY?* YOU THINK EITHER OF YOU CAN MAKE *ME* LAUGH?

BEG.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S FUNNY-- THAT YOU THINK THIS IS ABOUT *MONEY.*

I DON'T CARE ABOUT *MONEY.*

I USE IT.

HOW'S *THAT* FOR FUNNY, TWO-FACE? OR SHOULD I CALL YOU...

NO-FACE?

YOU LIKE *THAT* NAME? I THINK IT'S PRETTY GOOD, GOT A REAL *RING* TO IT-- I THINK IT COULD ACTUALLY DO YOU *BOTH* SOME GOOD...

HANDS OFF THE MERCHANDISE.

SCREEE

YOU ARE MY *CASH REGISTER* NOW, GOT IT?

AND ONE MORE *THING*...

...

I WANTED TO KEEP THIS ABOUT YOUR *INDISCRETION*, HARVEY...

YOU MADE IT *PERSONAL*, NOT ME.

JONNY JONNY...

GET YOUR *LADY*.

CROC...

DRIVE HER WHEREVER. GIVE HER SOME *MONEY*.

HOW MUCH?

WHATEVER IT WAS *WORTH*.

"JONNY JONNY, LET'S STAY OUT TONIGHT."

THAT MAKES US *EVEN*, NO?

GRAB ME SOME BROWN LIQUOR...

WH-THOO

I'M IN THE *MOOD* FOR BROWN LIQUOR.

good luck!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, JONNY JONNY? WHAT ARE *YOU* IN THE MOOD FOR?

NAME IT-- TAKE IT...

IT'S *MY* SANDBOX.

AND YOU'RE IN IT *WITH* ME.

AH...

YES I WAS.

IN IT WITH JOKER.

WHERE I'D WANTED TO BE...

...UNTIL I WAS THERE.

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SHHH

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

I SAID SHUT UP!

CARL-- SOMEONE'S HERE!

WHA?

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

WHO...

CARES?

I KNEW THEN, I WAS CRAZY TO WANT TO BE LIKE JOKER...

BECAUSE HE WAS RIGHT-- HE WASN'T CRAZY.

YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE, JONNY JONNY?

...EVERYTHING.

MY, MY...

IS IT YOU'VE LEARNED A LOT...

OR YOU'RE SMARTER THAN YOU LOOK?

AND BY THE BY, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU ARE CLOSE THOUGH. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

WHY DO YOU HATE YOURSELF?

I--

--DON'T KID A KIDDER.

SORRY.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU *NEVER* TO *APOLOGIZE?*

YEAH.

THEN DON'T.

YOU DON'T GET IT, JOKER.

I AM SORRY.

I CAN'T THINK OF A *WORSE* WAY TO DIE.

AND I KNOW *ALL* OF THE BAD WAYS, INSIDE AND OUT.

MY FRIEND... JONNY JONNY...

WHAT *I* HATE MORE THAN *EVERYTHING*...

IS *APOLOGIES.*

THAT CONFESSION... FROM A MAN WHO NEVER CONFESSED...

...IT KILLED ME.

RUNCH

PLEASE...

YOU *HAVE* TO STOP HIM.

HE SAID...

--HE SAID HE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO *MURDER* ONE OF US...

US?

US. NOT YOU.

HE'S GOING TO MURDER ONE OF *US*.

WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING *FUNNY?*

WHEN I WAS... *GONE,* I MET A MAN WHO WAS OBSESSED WITH DRIVING A CAR AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE DAY.

HE SWORE UP AND DOWN HE COULD DO IT, AND HE *TRIED* TO, MANY TIMES, FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND.

"AT THE END OF THOSE FAILED DAYS... HE'D SIT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD CURSING HIS BAD LUCK. EVENTUALLY, A GOOD SAMARITAN WOULD STOP."

"AFTER *SLAUGHTERING* THE SAMARITAN-- AND ANYONE ELSE WITH THE SAMARITAN-- LIKE HIS WIFE, CHILDREN-- HE'D PUT THEM IN HIS CAR, SET IT ON FIRE, AND DRIVE OFF IN THEIRS."

"THEN HE'D FILL UP THE TANK AND WAIT ON THE SUN, SO HE COULD TRY TO DRIVE AROUND THE WORLD AGAIN."

HE NEVER MADE IT?

NO, HE WAS... *GONE*. BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

THERE IS ONE, I'M ASSUMING.

SO YOU DON'T *GET* IT, JONNY JONNY?

HE BLAMED THE *CARS* FOR HIS FAILURES.

IT NEVER CROSSED HIS MIND THAT WHAT HE *BELIEVED* HE COULD DO WAS *IMPOSSIBLE*.

I *ADMIRE* THAT.

I *REALLY* DO.

DRIVE, JONNY JONNY.

THAT SONOFABITCH...

WHO? I DON'T *GET* IT...

OF COURSE NOT-- HE DOESN'T HAVE A FUNNY BROKEN BONE IN HIS BODY.

OH, BUT HE'S GOT HIS HANDS ON THE RUG, JONNY. EVERYTHING-- HE'S LET ME... WE HAVE TO GET *OFF* THE RUG...

WHAT RUG?

GODDAMMIT-- CAN'T YOU FEEL IT *SLIPPING AWAY!?*

*TRUTH BE TOLD, I WASN'T FEELING **ANYTHING** AT ALL. IT WAS AS IF, THOUGH MY HANDS WERE ON THE WHEEL...*

*I WAS JUST ALONG FOR THE **RIDE**. THINGS WERE MOVING THAT WAY FOR ME.*

MEAT AND FISH

AND THEN... CROC'S DOOR WAS AJAR WHEN WE GOT THERE.

AND THEN... JOKER PUSHED IT OPEN. BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO.

AND THEN...

I GOT IT.

WHEN WE HEARD THE LAUGH...

OR WAS IT A GROWL?

THEN I FELT THE TUG ON THE RUG.

FEELING THAT, I HOPED...

...IT WAS ABOVE THE ONE I WAS ALREADY ON.

WE RAN. JOKER SETTING THE STREETS ON FIRE, DRAGGING ME-- SPITTING AND SCREAMING THROUGH TEARS.

THIS BELONGS TO ME!

JOKER, I MEAN.

I WAS LAUGHING.

HEHEHE

HEHEHE
HEE--

CRACK

SHUT-UP!

UH... GOD. YOU *DISGUST* ME.

YOU HAVE *NO CHARM* AT ALL, JUST...

OBVIOUSNESS.

DUMB, DULL...

DISAPPOINTING.

OBVIOUS.

SHAME ON YOU.

AH...

--HA.

OBVIOUS...

AND EVERYBODY KNOWS.

YOU WEAR YOUR ***SHAME*** LIKE A BADGE, BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE ***BALLS*** TO ACTUALLY PIN ONE ON.

YES... JUST LOOK AT YOU...

DESPERATE TO BE FEARED, YOU WANT TO BE PERCEIVED AS A *MONSTER*, DRAPED IN BLACK.

AND YET...

YOU LEAVE THAT *LITTLE WINDOW*...

A GLIMPSE AT THE *PERFECTION* UNDERNEATH. *OBVIOUS*-- THE CHISELED GOOD LOOKS-- NOT THE JAW, THE MOUTH OF A *MONSTER*...

WHY DO YOU LET IT BE SEEN?

TELL ME WHY.

TO MOCK YOU.

RRRRAAA..

..NOOOO!

BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

MY NAME IS JONNY FROST, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT, DO I? YOU KNOW I'M **SOMEBODY...**

I'M ON THE TOP OF THE WORLD, LOOKING DOWN.

YOU KNOW WHAT I SEE?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I SEE?

...I SEE YOU.

A DISEASE.

ONE THAT HAS BEEN AROUND LONGER THAN GOTHAM, THE CITY INFECTED.

A DISEASE THAT'S **OLDER** THAN ANY CITY. HELL, IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME DISEASE THAT BUILT THE **FIRST** ONE.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A JOKER.

BECAUSE THERE'S NO CURE FOR HIM.

NO CURE AT ALL.

...JUST A BATMAN.

THE END

BRIAN AZZARELLO

Brian has been writing comics professionally since the mid-1990s. He is the writer and cocreator with Eduardo Risso of the acclaimed Vertigo monthly series 100 BULLETS, which has won multiple Eisner and Harvey awards.

Brian's other writing credits for DC Comics include BATMAN and JONNY DOUBLE (both with Risso), SUPERMAN (with Jim Lee), SGT. ROCK: BETWEEN A HARD PLACE AND HELL (with Joe Kubert), LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL (with Lee Bermejo), DR. 13, and an Eisner-nominated run on HELLBLAZER. He has also written FILTHY RICH for the VERTIGO CRIME line.

He has been cited as one of Wizard magazine's top ten writers and has been profiled and/or reviewed in Entertainment Weekly, GEAR, The Chicago Tribune, and countless other publications. He lives in Chicago with his wife, artist Jill Thompson, and he finally has a website.

LEE BERMEJO

Lee began drawing comics in 1997 for WildStorm Studios in San Diego at age 19. This project marks the third collaboration with Brian Azzarello, the first being BATMAN/DEATHBLOW: AFTER THE FIRE, followed by LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL. He has also done a number of other short projects, including GLOBAL FREQUENCY with WARREN ELLIS, SUPERMAN/GEN13 with Adam Hughes, and HELLBLAZER with Mike Carey. Recently, he has worked primarily as a cover artist, doing covers for HELLBLAZER for Vertigo and *The Stand* and *Daredevil* for Marvel Comics. Currently, he's writing and drawing a graphic novel for DC Comics. In 2003 he moved to Italy, where he hopes to eventually earn enough money to get away from it all. He can't keep doing this work with these..... people.

MICK GRAY

Mick Gray grew up wanting to be an artist and car designer. At the suggestion of his father, Mick became a draftsman, getting on-the-job training at 16 and an Associate's Degree in Technical Illustration at 20. In 1988 his best friend suggested him to local comic book publisher Slave Labor Graphics. On a whim, Mick brought down his portfolio of technical illustrations. He was instantly hired to ink backgrounds like buildings and cars...and he's been busy ever since.

Mick is an Eisner Award-winning inker and has worked continuously for DC comics on such projects as SON OF SUPERMAN hardcover (J.H. Williams III), SUPERGIRL AND THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES (Barry Kitson), ZATANNA (Ryan Sook), PROMETHEA (J.H. Williams III) and most recently BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL (Rags Morales), TEEN TITANS GO! (Alexander Serra) and JSA (Dale Eaglesham).

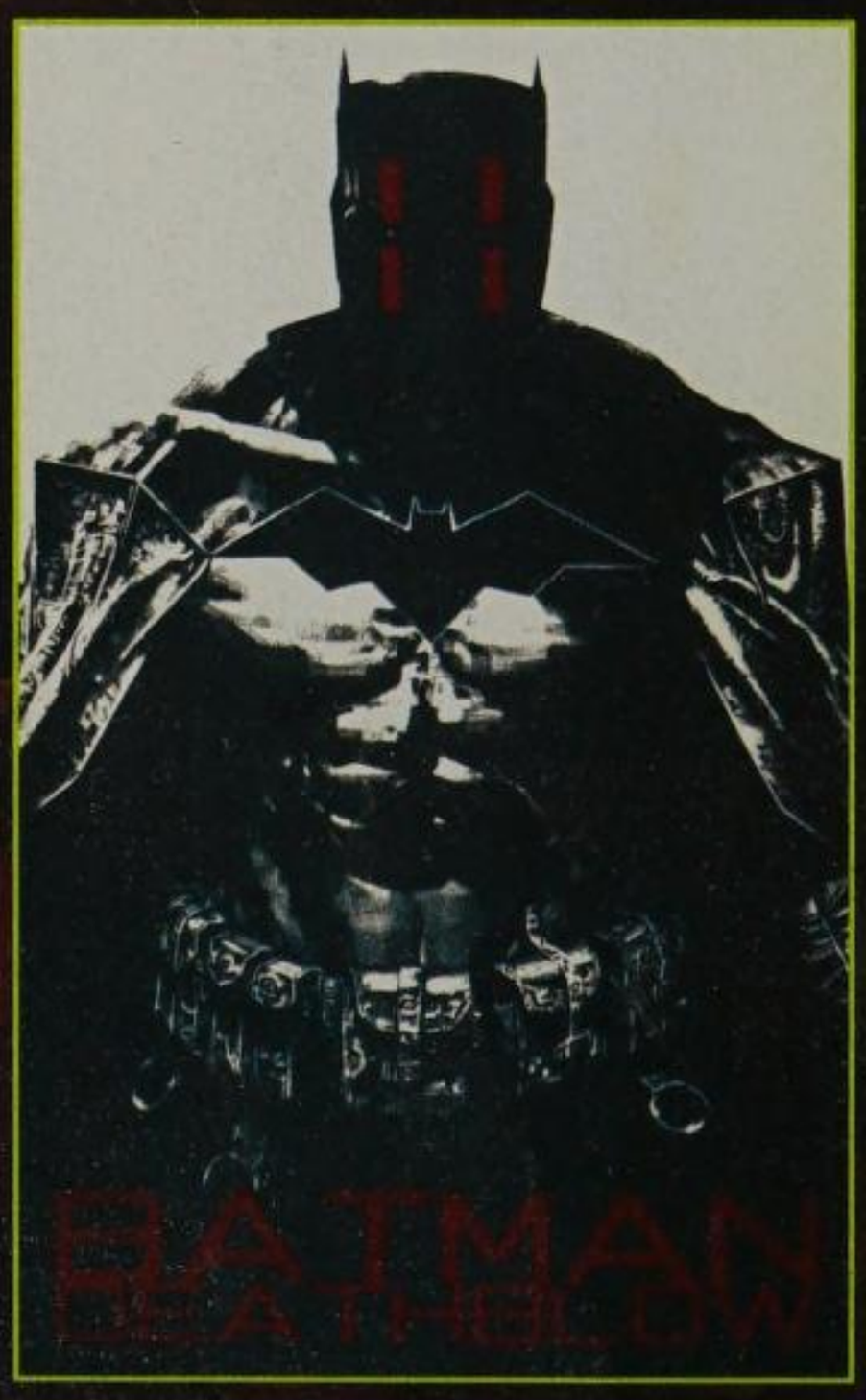
PATRICIA MULVIHILL

Patricia Mulvihill began her professional career as a book jacket painter and graphic designer before unwittingly detouring into comics. Projects include WONDER WOMAN, BATMAN, LOVELESS, and 100 BULLETS. When not working she is often devising plans to slip away and travel. She is an Eisner Award winner and has been a colorist for DC Comics for over a decade. Trish lives in New York City.

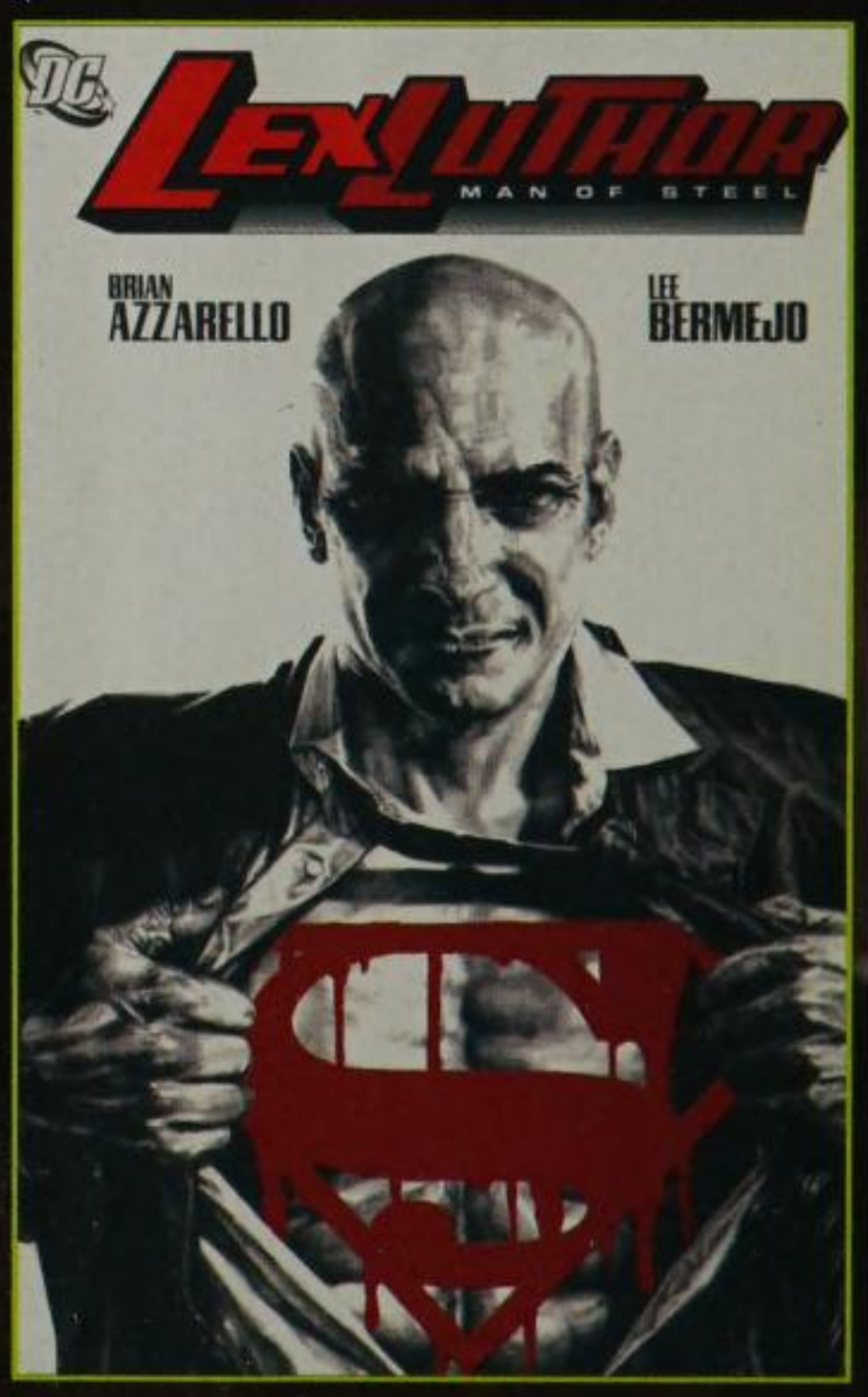
FROM EISNER AWARD-WINNING WRITER

BRIAN AZZARELLO

WITH LEE BERMEJO



BATMAN/DEATHBLOW: AFTER THE FIRE



LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL

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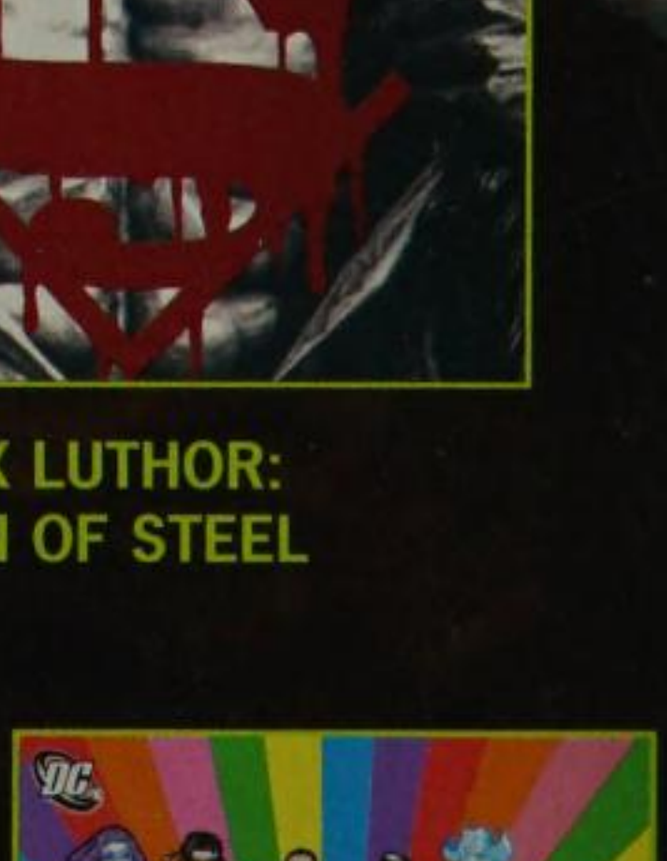
WITH JIM LEE

BATMAN: BROKEN CITY
WITH EDUARDO RISSO



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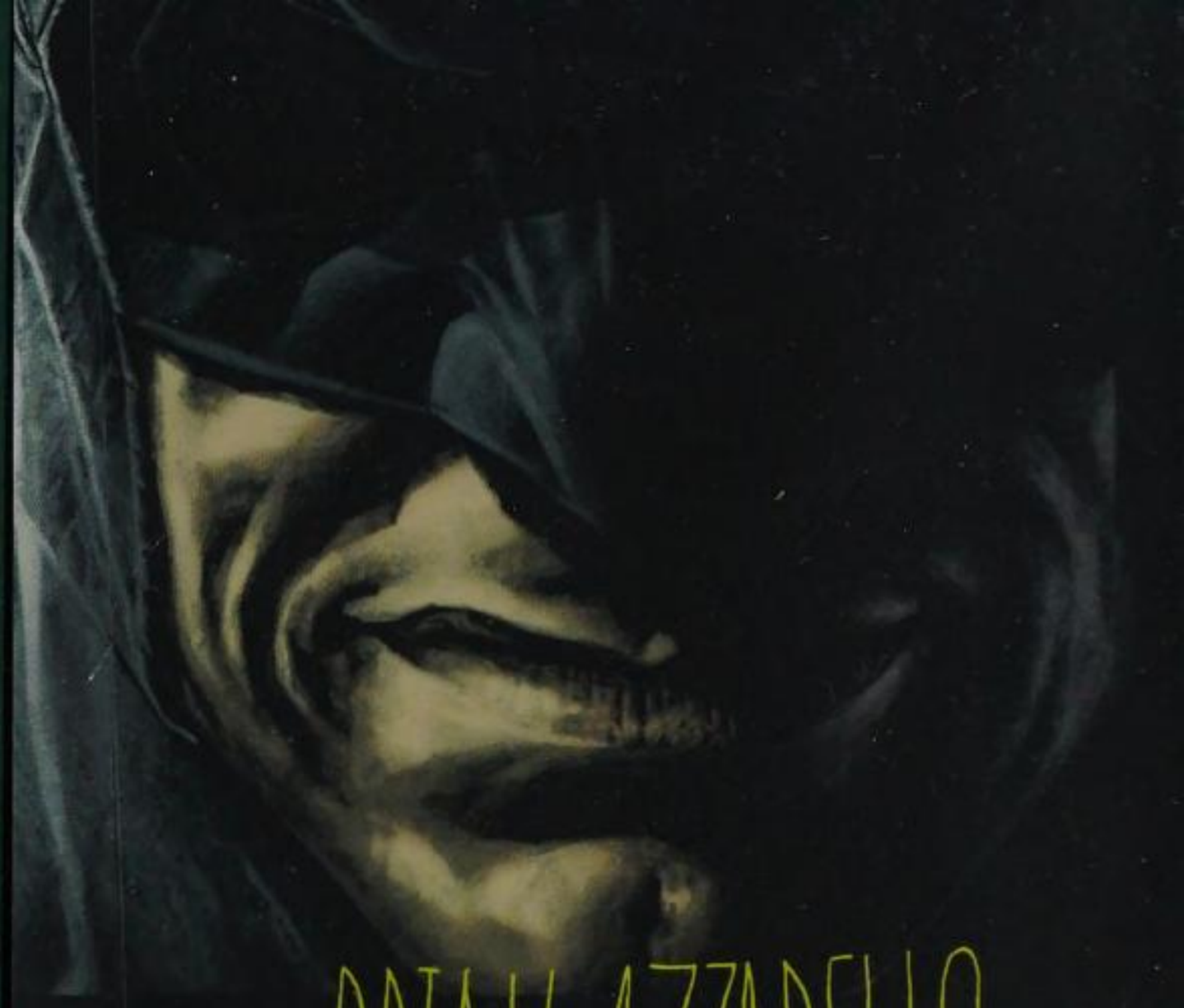

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Joker

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BUT HE WAS...

JOKER WAS BEING RELEASED FROM ARKHAM ASYLUM..."

So begins this searing look at the crazed world and cracked mind of the Joker...the crowned king of the Gotham City rackets.

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